

**Claims**

1. A firefighter's helmet comprising an inner protective shell configured to be worn on its own as a helmet and an outer protective shell configured to be fitted over the inner shell and releasably retained thereon, comprising retaining mechanism for retaining the inner shell in the outer shell, wherein the retaining mechanism is moveable by a user whilst wearing the inner shell between a first position in which the retaining mechanism engages a said shell substantially to prevent relative movement between the two shells; and a second position in which the retaining mechanism permits relative movement of the shells whereby allowing the donning or doffing of the outer shell by the user.
2. A helmet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the outer shell has an outwardly extending brim or cape.
3. A helmet according to claim 1 or claim 2, comprising a spacer for spacing the outer shell from the inner shell.
4. A helmet according to any of claims 1 to 3, comprising a visor which is accommodated between the inner and outer shells when not in use.
5. A helmet according to any preceding claim, wherein the retaining mechanism is resiliently biased towards the first position.
6. A helmet according to Claim 5 wherein the retaining mechanism is moveable by a user whilst wearing the inner shell in order to move it from the first to the second position for allowing the introduction or removal of the outer shell on to or off the inner shell.
7. A helmet according to any preceding claim wherein the retaining mechanism is pivotally connected to the helmet.

8. A helmet according to Claim 7 wherein the retaining mechanism is pivotally mounted on an attachment mechanism which is connected to the outer shell, the retaining mechanism thereby being spaced from the outer shell.

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9. A helmet according to Claim 8 wherein the inner helmet comprises a slot, which is engageable by the attachment mechanism such that when the retaining mechanism is in the second position the attachment mechanism can be moved through the slot whilst when the retaining mechanism is in the first position the attachment mechanism cannot be moved through the slot.

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10. A helmet according to Claim 9 wherein the retaining mechanism engages a lower edge of the slot when in the first position.

11. A helmet according to any of claims 8 to 10 wherein the attachment mechanism comprises a mounting for an accessory to the helmet.

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12. A helmet according to any of claims 1 to 7, wherein the retaining mechanism is disposed on the outer shell.

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13. A helmet according to Claim 12, wherein the retaining mechanism engages a lower edge of the inner shell.

14. A helmet according to any preceding claim, comprising a mounting for attaching at least one accessory to the helmet.

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15. A helmet substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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